The League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County and the Jane Kopas Women’s Center of The University of Scranton invite all Lackawanna County students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in our Annual Women’s History Month Essay Contest. This year’s topic is ***Women of Character, Courage and Commitment***. The topic is intended to be broad, allowing students to consider women in many fields who exemplified these traits. The theme was selected by the National Women’s History Project (NWHP) as their 2014 theme. Student may view NWHP nominees at <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/honorees2012.php>

**Requirements for the essay:**

* The essay should focus on one women from the United States. We encourage students to discover a woman whom they have not yet studied and to consider women from Pennsylvania. The essay may be about a living or historical person.
* The essay should include biographical information about the woman.
* The essay should discuss how the traits of *character, courage and commitment* allowed this woman to make a positive impact on the lives of others, either in her own lifetime or through a legacy for future generations that resulted/may result from her efforts.
* The essay should include the student’s personal reflection about how study of this woman connects with the student’s aspirations (e.g., impacts the student’s behaviors, decisions, and choices in the future).
* Length: Grades 7-9 may submit 200-400 words. Grades 10-12 may submit 300-600 words.
* All text must be original. Essays with plagiarized content will be disqualified.
* References must be listed at the end of the essay. (References are not included in the word count.) Interview may be used as a source.
* The essay must be completed in a size 11 or 12 font. Handwritten essays cannot be accepted.

**How to submit the essay:**

Prepare a cover page with the following information:

* Essay title:
* Student name:
* Grade:
* School:
* School phone number:
* Teacher’s name:
* Teacher’s subject:
* Teacher’s email address:
* Length of the essay in words:
* Number of pages submitted:
* Date submitted:

Essay and cover page must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2014 and mailed to**:** LWV Lackawanna Essay Contest, c/o Diana Dakey, 208 Braewood Rd., Dalton, PA 18414.

**Judging: Essays will be judged based on the following:**

* 80% - Content. Please see the content areas above.
* 10% - Grammar, spelling, professionalism.
* 10% - Compliance with LWV Essay Contest rules, above.

**Awards:**

* There are two grade categories, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Two winners will be selected from each grade category.
* Winners, their families, and teachers are invited to attend a reception on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in DeNaples Center, room 405 at The University of Scranton. Awards will be presented and winners will be asked to read their essays.
* Teachers will be notified in writing by March 12, 2014 if one of their students has been selected as a winner.

**Questions:**

Please refer questions to [LWVLackawannaEssay@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLackawannaEssay@gmail.com) or Patricia Jennings-Fowler (570) 407-2701.